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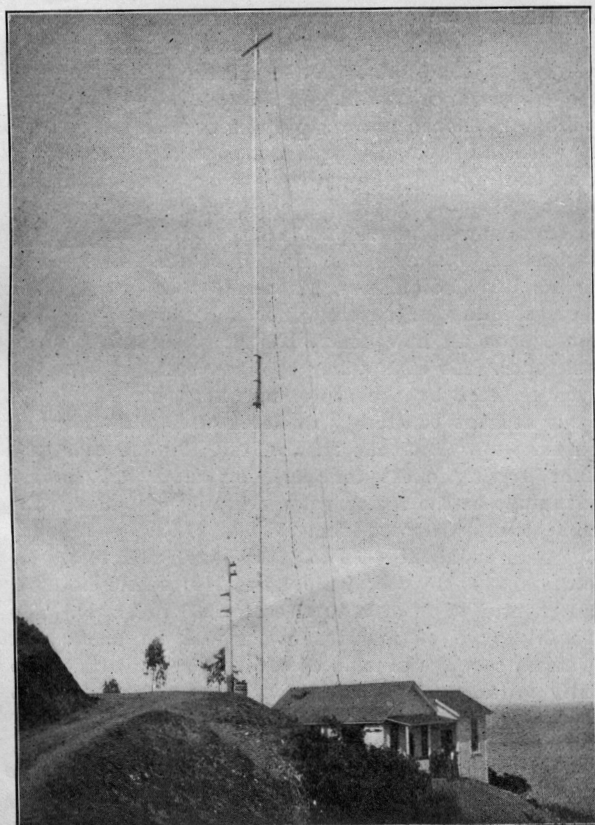
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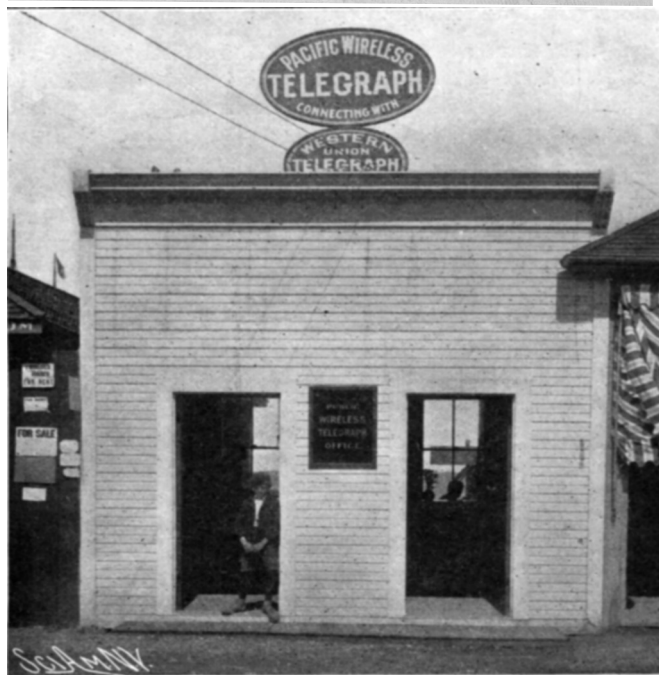
SANTA CATALINA'S WIRELESS NEWSPAPER.

BY CHARLES F. HOLDER.

The island of Santa Catalina is a part of Los Angeles County, Southern California, lying about twenty



THE PACIFIC WIRELESS TELEGRAPH STATION.



miles off shore, parallel with the mainland. The principal settlement or town is at Avalon, on the southeast, where one of the quaintest hamlets of the coast has grown up, having a summer population of six thousand or more and a rapidly-growing one in winter. The locality has much to recommend it—an almost perfect climate the year around, and sports and pastimes which have given it a world-wide reputation.

There has been one drawback to Santa Catalina, and that was the lack of telegraphic communication. In summer there are from two to three boats daily; but in winter only one, the steamer arriving at noon. For twenty-four hours the island was virtually without communication with the mainland. To remedy this, the Banning Company, who own the island, established a pigeon route. Large flocks of these birds were trained, and telegrams or important news were sent in this manner with success, the birds taking a message from Avalon to Los Angeles, a distance of fifty-five miles, in about an hour. The pigeon houses were so arranged that when a bird arrived with a message it rang an electric alarm in the receiver's home or office, thus calling him up.

But there was an element of uncertainty in this. Sportsmen who did not know that the birds were tame shot them *en route*. Others died of over-exertion. In the main the service was satisfactory, but so many prominent men visited the island that the need of adequate means of communication became more and more urgent. Finally Gen. A. L. New, vice-president of the Pacific Wireless Telegraph Company, suggested the installment of a wireless telegraphic plant. A point was selected north of Avalon Bay on the conspicuous headland that culminates in Sugar Loaf rock and is reached by a well-built stage road. Here the mast was erected and the office built, the latter being connected with a main office on Ocean Avenue, Avalon. The instruments used, notably the receiver, were designed by Mr. Swenson.

The nearest mainland point is at San Pedro, about thirty miles distant, and from the time the office opened for business to date, about six thousand messages have been sent without a single error or a moment's delay. The plant has been subjected to some severe tests. During the last of March a terrific storm of wind and rain very nearly cut off boat communication with the island; yet the messages were sent across the channel with directness and precision.

It is interesting to note that while the London Times is experimenting with "marconigraphs," endeavoring to test the accuracy of the system, the Pacific Wireless Telegraph Company has been for several weeks in business, supplying Santa Catalina through a daily paper, the Wireless, with all its news. The Wireless is a small newspaper containing the condensed news of the day—a perfect busy man's paper. The Avalon Wireless publishes every morning the news of Santa Catalina, the latest catches of great game fishes on the Isle of Summer, as well as the telegraphic news of the world, sent across the channel during the night.